

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 14, and ADD claims 18-22 as follows.

1 to 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

detecting a color solid axis of an original image;

judging ~~an exposure~~ one of an overexposure state and an underexposure state of the original image from a positional relationship between said color solid axis and an axis indicating the luminosity in a color space representing the color solid; and

setting an image correcting condition according to a result of said judgment.

7. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 6, wherein said image correcting condition is a condition for adjusting the contrast of a component indicating the luminosity of said original image.

8. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for effecting an image correction process on an original image according to the color distribution of the original image comprising steps of:

detecting a color solid axis of the original image in a predetermined color space; and

controlling said image correction process of correcting an influence based on an image taking condition of the original image, based on a positional relationship of said color solid axis in said color space.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

detection means for detecting a color solid axis of an original image;

judgment means for judging ~~an exposure~~ one of an overexposure state and an underexposure state of the original image from a positional relationship between said color solid axis and an axis indicating the luminosity in a color space representing said color solid; and

setting means for setting an image correcting condition corresponding to a result of said judgment.

11. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for executing

an image correction process on an original image, corresponding to the color distribution thereof, comprising:

detection means for detecting the color solid axis of the original image in a predetermined color space; and

control means for controlling said image correction process of correcting an influence based on an image taking condition of the original image, based on a positional relationship of said color solid axis in said color space.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A computer readable memory medium storing a computer program for realizing:

detecting means for detecting a color solid axis of an original image;

judgment means for judging ~~an exposure~~ one of an overexposure and an underexposure state of said original image from the positional relationship between said color solid axis and an axis indicating the luminosity in a color space representing said color solid; and

setting means for setting an image correcting condition according to a result of said judgment.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer readable memory medium in which a computer program is stored, for realizing:

detection means for detecting the color solid axis of an original image in a predetermined color space; and

control means for controlling said image correction process of correcting an influence based on an image taking condition of the original image, based on a positional relationship of said color solid axis in said color space,

wherein said program causes an image correction process to be executed on the original image corresponding to the color distribution of the original image.

15. (Previously Presented) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

detecting a luminosity of a highlight point and a shadow point of an original image;

obtaining a hue of the highlight point and the shadow point from plural pixels of the luminosity; and

executing a correction process on the original image based on the highlight point, the shadow point and the hue,

wherein the correction process executed in said executing step executes a color fog correction by matching a color solid axis of the original image with an axis indicating the luminosity.

16. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:

detection means for detecting a luminosity of a highlight point and a shadow point of an original image;

obtaining means for obtaining a hue of the highlight point and the shadow point from plural pixels of the luminosity; and

correction means for executing a correction process on the original image based on the highlight point, the shadow point and the hue,

wherein said correction means executes a color fog correction by matching a color solid axis of the original image with an axis indicating the luminosity.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer readable memory medium in which a program of an image processing method is stored, said program comprising the codes for:

detecting a luminosity of a highlight point and a shadow point of an original image;

obtaining a hue of the highlight point and the shadow point from plural pixels of the luminosity; and

executing a correction process on the original image based on the highlight point, the shadow point and the hue,

wherein the correction process executes a color fog correction by matching a color solid axis of the original image with an axis indicating the luminosity.

18. (New) An image processing method according to Claim 6, wherein the image correction condition is a condition that density correction is performed to have a luminance according to the original image.

19. (New) An image processing method according to Claim 6, further comprising the step of correcting brightness of the original image according to the image correction condition.

20. (New) An image processing method according to Claim 8, wherein the influence based on the image taking condition includes a decrease in high-luminance saturation due to suppression of a high-luminance color or a decrease in low-luminance saturation due to suppression of a low-luminance color.

21. (New) An image processing method according to Claim 8, wherein said image correction process corrects an overexposure state or an underexposure state.

22. (New) An image processing method according to Claim 15, wherein the color fog correction includes a color balance correction.